

## Matthew 28:11-15

*Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, saying, 'Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.' And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure.'" So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.*

Today's verses talk about when Jesus rose from the dead and Mary Magdalene and Mary had come to the tomb early that Sunday morning and found the tomb empty. But our focus today is not on the Mary's, but rather on the guards. Look at the first sentence in today's verses which reads "*Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened.*" And to find out what "*the things that had happened*" were, we need to go back a few verses.

† *Matthew 28:2-4 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.*

So, the guards felt the earthquake and saw the angel whose, "*countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow*" roll the stone away and the guards passed out because of the awesomeness of what they saw.

Now, I don't know about you, but if I had seen any of these things, I would have believed right then and there and would have been on my face confessing and repenting of my sins, and even some I hadn't done. And reading that you would think that the guards would have believed and repented of crucifying Jesus. But did you read in today's verse what they did?

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Simply they were bought off for how much money? It doesn't say, but the question is, how much is enough to betray Jesus? We know Judas Iscariot did it for a few bucks

† *Matthew 26:14-16 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they*

***counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.***

I Googled how much thirty pieces of silver would be in today's economy, and it came up with anywhere between \$100 to \$3,000. But either way, is that enough for you to turn your back on Jesus? No, you say? Good answer.

Here in Texas, the Powerball Lotto this month was worth over 2 Billion dollars, talk about wow, that's a lot of mullah. But as a Christian I choose not to play the Lotto, because the Lord does not supply so I can throw it away on gambling, even if it is a couple bucks for a lotto ticket.

But if someone came to you and gave you the winning numbers so that you could win the 2 Billion dollars, and all you had to do to get the winning numbers was forget all about that Christian Jesus stuff and live the rest of your life on easy street with around one Billion dollars (after taxes) to live off of the rest of your life. Would you do it? Now you might say no, but are you willing to compromise your walk with the Lord, if you have determined in your heart that you would not gamble, but now since the jackpot is over 2 billion dollars, you would for what \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20 (I have no idea how much one of these Powerball Lotto tickets are), that's less than what Judas Iscariot was bought off for, even if the thirty pieces of silver was only \$100.

So, we don't know how much money they gave to these guards to keep them quite, but they actually saw it all with their own eyes,

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and still they choose to gain this whole world, instead of being honest and having eternal life with Jesus in heaven instead.

So, is there a price for you to betray Jesus and turn your back on Him? I hope not.

† ***Mark 8:36-37 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?***